



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
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To: Board of Education
Lake and Peninsula School District

September 10, 2024

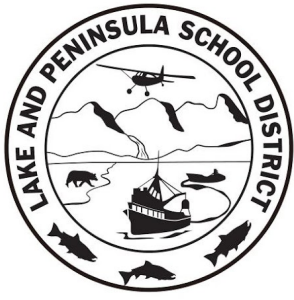
From: Marjorie Waggoner
Special Education Director (Contractor)

Re: Special Education Report

Getting Started School Year 24/25!

We are happy to welcome these new (to LPSD) teachers to our special education team. Kimberly Goode has joined us to provide services to the Kokhanok students. Kimberly has a broad background in the field of education including many years as a special education teacher. Tracey Thomas is returning to the district as a special education teacher contractor and will be working in Nondalton. Rick Rohlman will fill in the sped spot at Nondalton when Tracey is not on site. Kitza Durkop will be contracting to provide special education services to Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, and Port Heiden. She has the expertise that a long career in education brings. Jean Barbour will be providing special education services in Perrville as well as teaching elementary education. I am impressed with the fine educators that have joined LPSD and those who continue teaching in LPSD. We welcome these new and not so new team members and look forward to a successful year.

Every start of a new school year, the special education teachers have the extra challenge of completing the required paperwork and meetings to accept or amend the IEPs of students who are transferring to LPSD from other Alaska school districts. They also are required to conduct evaluations and meet with IEP teams to determine special education eligibility under Alaska sped law for students transferring to LPSD that received sped services in another state prior to transfer. The required paperwork and meetings must be completed by October 1st this year in order for the new students to be included in LPSD's fall count as special education students. IEPs for students who need and receive individual attention and services that are significantly more complex and frequent, and require significantly more resources to provide than the



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services received by other special education students must be submitted to the State for verification of intensive needs by October 25th.

Disproportionality Report

On May 24, 2024 the district received the annual Disproportionality Analysis from DEED. In past years LPSD has been found to be disproportionate in the identification of Alaska Native and American Indian students in the area of Speech Impairment. This includes expressive and receptive language as well as articulation. Last Year, despite our efforts to refer students for speech/language evaluations only after interventions are provided for a reasonable period of time, the report from the State found LPSD to have significant disproportionality in the identification of Alaska Native and American Indian students in the area of Speech Impairment. This year LPSD was found to be at risk for (rather than actually having) a significant disproportionality which is a step in the right direction. A District committee was convened during the August inservice to do a required self-assessment and develop a plan to reduce the number of referrals through regular education interventions and adhering to the practice of determining whether the student exhibits a language difference or a language disability.

Professional Development and Training

I met with the new-to-district special education teachers in August before they headed out for their new adventures. We reviewed the nuts and bolts of LPSD special education paperwork and procedures as well as discussing the logistics particular to teaching special education in our villages. All LPSD sped teachers and I met by Zoom during the inservice days in August to discuss various relevant topics: related services, the revised Q-interactive assessment application, changes in Infant Learning Programs timelines for transition from ILP to LPSD, the ramifications of disproportionality, preparations for count date, and serving students who have intensive needs to name a few. We will continue our PD activities during the inservice held in October. I will also be attending 3 days of Special Education Director training during the month of October.

I am looking forward to an exciting and productive school year.